

Study Notes for the message on 20th Dec 2020

Advent 4: A Surprise Birth

Luke 2 verses 8 to 20

Today's message looks at Christ's 'upside-down Kingdom', its unexpectedness.

Can you think of any surprise New Testament teachings that were not mentioned?

We said that Jesus never wants us in charge. He calls not the strong, but weak, ordinary people.

Discuss reasons for that approach.

Read again **Luke 2 verses 8 to 20**.

We saw that shepherds were looked down on in New Testament times, as outside the religious markers of their day. And we saw the cultural shock of including shepherds as the first bearers of good news.

Can you think of any people you have been conditioned to look down on? How might they bring good news to you?

We mentioned three hallmarks of the gospel:

1. It's good news,
2. It should produce joy.
3. It's for everybody.

How do we proclaim truth, whilst not living that truth out?

We finished with several questions worth exploring:

How may I be a shepherd in someone's life?

Who are your shepherds? That is, who do you least expect God to lead to you and say, 'This is how I've met God. He wants me to tell you this'?